(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken in the matter; and

(c) what steps are proposed to indemnify the unwary investors?

THE FINANCE MINISTER (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have received complaints regarding malpractices committed by a Stock Broker's firm of Calcutta Stock Exchange.

(b) The complaints mainly relate to non-payment of sale proceeds of shares sold by individual investors. The Calcutta Stock Exchange have expelled the firm from the membership of the Exchange on 9th August, 1989.

(c) The investors have recourse to legal proceedings and can also approach the Stock Exchange authorities for such help as they can provide from Investors' Protection Fund maintained by them.

Increase in Prices of Coffee

1214. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned "Steep increase in coffee prices on the cards" as reported in the Indian Express of 25th February, 1990;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such increase; and

(c) whether Government propose to revise the minimum release price of coffee?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) to (c) Based on the cost study report of the Cost Accounts Branch of the Finance Ministry the Minimum Release Price (MRP) of Coffee, has been revised w.e.f. 8th March, 1990 as under:—

Grade	Price before revision	Price after revision	Percentage increase
Arabica	Rs. 19.81 per kg.	Rs. 20.37 per kg.	2.82
Robusta	Rs. 15.90 per kg.	Rs. 16.64 per kg.	4.65
Composite	Rs. 10.18 per point	Rs. 10.57 per point	3.83

It would be seen that the increase can be termed only as marginal and not steep.

Setting up of Appointments board for nationalised banks

1215. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up appointments Board for top level appointments in nationalised banks and other financial institutions;

(b) if so, by when the proposed Board is likely to be set up;

(c) what are the details of top level posts lying vacant in nationalised banks and other financial institutions as on 1st Demember, 1989; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to fill up such posts?

THE FINANCE MINISTER (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b) Government have set up in January, 1990 an Appointments Board under the Chairmanship of Governor, Reserve Bank of India to make recommendations to the Government on appointment of wholetime Direc-

tors and non-official Directors on the Boards of Directors of Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions.

(c) and (d) As on 1st December, 1989 the posts of Chairman, State Bank of India, Executive Directors of Bank of India, Canara Bank and Bank of Maharashtra, Managing Director, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Chairman-cum-Managing Director National Insurance Company Limited were vacant. All the above vacancies except the Chairman-cum-Managing Director, National Insurance Company Limited and Executive Director, Bank of Maharashtra have since been filled up. Government have already initiated the process for filling up of the above two vacancies.

Expansion/Diversification of processed foods industry

1216. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry has urged Government for substantial expansion and diversification of processed foods industry during the Eighth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, what is Central Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Purchase of tomatoes by the Punjab Agro and Pepsico in Punjab

1217. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) how many tons of potatoes and grains from Punjab are being utilised by the Pepsico Project in the first year of operation;

(b) what amount have been passed on to the Punjab farmers from such arrangements;

(c) how many tons of tomatoes are being lifted for the project for making tomato paste; and

(d) at what price tomatoes are being bought from the farmers in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by M/s. Pepsi Foods Private Limited the estimated quantum of potatoes and grains which are being utilised by them in the first year of operation is about 4,000 tonnes. Pepsi Foods plans to procure most of its agricultural raw material requirements directly from the farmers. It has been indicated that they are currently paying Rs. 1.35 per kg. for potatoes delivered to the factory and the total amount received by the Punjab farmers will depend upon the quantity supplied by them to the factory.

(c) and (d) According to M/s. Pepsi Foods Private Limited in the first year of operation the project has contracted to lift about 35,000 tonnes of tomatoes from the Punjab farmers. It has been indicated that the prices agreed range from Rs. 600 per tonne to Rs. 850 per tonne depending on the time of delivery at the factory. It has also been stated that to help farmers, Pepsi Foods has provided hybrid varieties of seedlings free of cost.

Promotion of Tourism in N.E. states

1218. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) wheter it is a fact that due to restrictions on the entry of tourists in the N.E. region, tourism industry could not come upto the level of other States;